

NEW JERSEY STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

TO Bob Reed through Tony Altieri *TA*  
FROM Rich Cahayla-Wynne and Mox Tan *MT* DATE January 22, 1979  
SUBJECT Scientific Chemical Processing - Carlstadt, NJ - Hazardous Waste Spill  
Inspection and Chain of Custody Sampling of January 19, 1979

SDMS Document



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On January 19, 1979, we were informed of a possible hazardous waste spill at the Scientific Chemical Processing plant at 216 Paterson Plank Road, Carlstadt.

At about 1000 hours we arrived at the location of the plant, but were unable to enter because the property is completely surrounded by a fence and there was no one in sight to let us in. After walking around the plant perimeter and noting two permitted cooling water discharges into Peach Island Creek, we called Bob Reed who contacted the firm at 411 Wilson Ave., Newark, (201) 589-7777. SCP sent Herbert Case, who escorted us through the plant at 1130 hours.

According to Mr. Case, on the night of the 18th, there was an unreported spill of unknown quantity somewhere within their plant premises. Mr. Case was not able to provide details as to location, composition or time of spill. He said that the employee who did not report the spill as required by company rules was terminated, but will be questioned for more details.

The spill apparently took place within the diked area underneath one of the thin film evaporators used to distill solvents from chemical wastes. The cooling water from the thin film evaporator is discharged to a pipe with an opening at ground level within the diked area. Two employees from SCP were manually removing what apparently was spilled sludge material. We collected Sample #C49947 of this sludge at 1215 hours from the floor of the diked area near the opening to the cooling water discharge pipe. The sample was reddish brown, viscous and had an extremely strong chemical odor.

The cooling water discharge pipe runs underground for about 100 feet and reappears from the river bank about 300 feet east of Gotham Parkway. Mr. Case did not know whether this discharge was DIS 001 or DIS 002 of permit #NJ 0003212. We sampled the effluent at 1155 (Sample #C49946). The sample was clear and had no detectable odor.

Floating on the surface of the creek near the outfall pipe was accumulated sludge similar in appearance to the material spilled within the diked area. We sampled the surface water containing some of this sludge at 1205 hours, (Sample #C49945). The sample had a distinct chemical odor similar to that of the spilled material within the diked area.

Approximately 50 feet east of the discharge pipe was a large amount of reddish brown sludge on the surface of the ice. We sampled this at 1230 hours, (Sample #C49948). This sludge appeared identical to the sludge floating near the outfall pipe and to the sludge within the diked area. The sample was viscous and had the same extremely strong chemical odor.

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We left the SCP area at 1235 hours and returned to the office. All of the above samples were collected using a chain of custody which was transferred to Tom Harrington at 1430 hours. Mr. Harrington transported the samples to the lab at that time.

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